

## INDEX TO SURGICAL PROGRESS.

### GENERAL SURGERY.

**I. Blood-Pressure during Ether and Chloroform Narcosis.** By DR. C. BLAULL (Tübingen). These pressure experiments were conducted with Gärtner's tonometer, and they are of value because, in contradistinction to earlier experiments on animals, they were limited to human beings narcotized for operative indications.

The operative interference as well as loss of blood might appear in a measure to adversely offset these pressure observations. The latter, though, is of slight moment, and is counterbalanced by elimination of psychical impressions, which would influence blood-pressure without a narcotic. On the other hand, these experiments are weighty, since they are pursued under the actual conditions when narcosis is called for.

In one hundred ether narcoses for all possible major operations a distinct type of pressure curve could be recognized,—viz., a pressure above the normal in 79 per cent., wanting in 9 per cent. of the cases largely comprising females.

A group of cases with a very slight lowering of pressure was found in individuals past the fiftieth year. Severe illness and profuse perspirations tended to minimize pressure.

A comparison of ether pressure before and immediately after narcosis set in is not tenable, since psychical factors of the preanæsthetic period artificially heighten pressure, but on the whole not in a single instance was the pressure persistently lowered.

In the period of awakening, a lowering of blood-pressure below the normal occurred in one-third instances. Ether was

administered with a Juillard mask, chloroform with Koppeler's modification of Junker's apparatus. Chloroform was given in thirty-seven instances, twenty-five pure and twelve with morphine in addition. The influence of morphine tested in normal individuals demonstrated the absence of any influence on blood-pressure. The type of chloroform blood-pressure curve, when given pure or as a mixed narcosis, shows a subnormal pressure in 90 per cent. Individuals past fiftieth year comprise a large number of cases with increased blood-pressure, and children under fifteen years are exclusively represented in instances of greatest diminution of blood-pressure. This observation is contradictory to a popular current belief that children bear chloroform well.

Furthermore, the largest proportion of narcoses were half narcoses, so that very early in the administration of chloroform the blood-pressure is lowered, whereas with ether any lowering of number of cases with increased blood-pressure, and children under and prolonged. Finally, upon awakening from chloroform in 27 per cent. of the instances blood-pressure is normal; 46 per cent. it is subnormal.

A final comparison of ether and chloroform shows, with the use of chloroform, a curve of great fluctuations tending to a lowering of pressure on the whole; with ether as an anæsthetic we have always a curve marked by high pressure.—*Beiträge zur klinischen Chirurgie*, Band xxx, Heft 2.

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## ABDOMEN.

**I. Pathology and Therapy of Strangulated Hernia.** By DR. RUDOLPH BUNDSCHUH (Heidelberg). The material constituting the basis of this paper is made from a study of 231 cases all operated within the aseptic era. Femoral (109) and inguinal (112) strangulated hernia were encountered in like frequency. The strangulation of herniæ increases in individuals